

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 SAI-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /135 W

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P 301508Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9989

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 1155

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR GW GV

SUBJECT : RELEASE OF WEST GERMAN PRISONERS

REF: A. CONAKRY 1110, B. CONAKRY 1127

1. GERMAN PRISONERS ADOLF MARX, JOSEF SCHMUTS, AND ULRICH STEGMANN RELEASED JULY 29 TO ITALIAN VICE MINISTER OF STATE MARIO PEDINI AND UNSYG SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE ANDRE LEWIN. ALL 3 PRISONERS, ACCOMPANIED BY PEDINI AND LEWIN DEPARTED CONAKRY EVENING JULY 29 VIA SABENA.
2. PEDINI ARRIVED CONAKRY JULY 28 BY SPECIAL HELICOPTER FROM FREETOWN. IT NOW CLEAR THAT DELAY IN RELEASE OF PRISONERS WAS TO PERMIT ITALIAN GOVERNMENT, THROUGH PEDINI, TO SHARE THE CREDIT FOR ARRANGING RELEASE.
3. GUINEAN RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT EMPHASIZED PEDINI ROLE AND SAID THAT PRISONERS WERE DELIVERED TO "ITALIAN EMBASSY AND LEWIN". ON JULY 30 RADIO ANNOUNCED DEPARTURE OF PEDINI AND LEWIN. RADIO STATED THAT FONMIN FILY CISSOKO WAS AT AIRPORT FOR PEDINI/LEWIN DEPARTURE.

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4. AFTER PEDINI ARRIVAL JULY 28, HE AND LEWIN, AS WELL AS ITALIAN AMBASSADOR AND UN ACTING PERMREP HAD LUNCH WITH PRISONERS. PRESIDENT TOURE MET WITH PRISONERS AT 1800 JULY 28 IN SMALL ANNEX TO PEOPLES' PALACE IN CONAKRY. DURING MEETING, ONE OF PRISONERS (ULRICH STEGMANN, WHO HAD BEEN ARRESTED DURING BICYCLE TRIP THROUGH GUINEA) ASKED PRESIDENT IF HE COULD RETURN TO GUINEA TO VISIT COUNTRY. TOURE REPLIED THAT HE WOULD BE WELCOMED AT ANY TIME. STEGMANN TOOK OCCASION TO ASK IF HE COULD HAVE HIS BICYCLE BACK.

5. STEGMANN REPORTEDLY IN GOOD PHYSICAL CONDITION AND SCHMUTS IN FAIR CONDITION. MARX IS STILL VERY WEAK MAN, BUT HE REPORTEDLY APPEARED TO IMPROVE CONSIDERABLY IN COURSE OF DAY JULY 28 AFTER REALIZING THAT HIS RELEASE WAS IMMINENT.

6. SPECULATION IN LOCAL DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY IS THAT FRG AND GUINEA MAY SOON RESUME DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE BONN.
MACDONALD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CONAKR01155
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740206-1158
From: CONAKRY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974077/aaaaafrl.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. CONAKRY 1110, B. CONAKRY 1127
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 APR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <24 FEB 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: : RELEASE OF WEST GERMAN PRISONERS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, GE, GV, IT, UN, (MARX, ADOLF), (SCHMUTS, JOSEF), (STEGMANN, ULRICH), (PEDINI, MARIO), (LEWIN, ANDRE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005